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juggling of accounts that so often results in scandal and exposure and so seldom brings the jugglers themselves to justice.

Mr. Richberg has done for his subject—the evil of the financial manipulation of corporate affairs—what Mr. Sinclair did for the packing trusts in his book, “The Jungle.” There is, however, one great distinction between them. Whereas “The Jungle” was distinctly of that type of literature known as “muckraking,” “The Shadow Men” contains nothing of this sort. If the author has any one corporation in mind, it has been carefully concealed. He deals with a general situation, and in so doing has, we think, fallen into an error common to this type of book. He is over-pessimistic. The reader is imbued with the idea that no large corporation is honest; that “rebating” and “watering” is universal; that all successful business men are malefactors of great wealth; and worst of all, that the law, or rather its administration, is too corrupt and rotten to afford relief. Even the law books share in his bitterness: “They pretend to be heirs to the wisdom of the ages and yet are untouched by the supreme wisdom of humor. Thousands of dull, dull pages are devoted to the things men do with hardly a line discussing why they do them.” Of humanity in general he says that few indeed “are fitted to leave even a noticeable grease spot on the page of time. The main function of humanity appears rather to be to provide the pulp from which the pages are rolled.” A long continuance in this gloomy strain is tiresome and depressing.

From a literary standpoint, “The Shadow Men” while not a masterpiece, is distinctly a success. On the whole the book is thoroughly enjoyable, and lawyers (and, as has been said, other less fortunate members of society), may well spend a few pleasant hours in its reading.

C. H. S., Jr.

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**LAW FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.** By John B. Green of the New York Bar. New York: The MacMillan Company. 1911.

This is one of the Rural Science Series, edited by Prof. L. H. Bailey. The author was confronted with the task of preparing a treatise that would be comprehensive enough to cover the legal questions that ordinarily arise in the life of the farmer, and yet not be so exhaustive as to include subjects, which, while they occasionally concern the farmer along with others, are not so peculiarly connected with farm life as to warrant their being included under the title of the book. For the most part, a wise selection of subjects has been made. The law on many of the topics discussed, such as contracts, sales, insurance and carriers, is in most instances, the same for one not engaged in agricultural pursuits as it is for the farmer, but the author is probably warranted in including them, as they deal with situations constantly arising in farm life where some kind of legal knowledge upon them will allow the farmer to recognize his rights and duties should a controversy arise.

As the title indicates, only American cases are cited, the status of the farmer and the land laws of England being materially different from both in the United States. The volume will be useful to the lawyer in providing a handy finger-post to many cases deciding legal principles which he knows exist but the authority for which is not always readily at hand. The indexing is especially well done, this part of the work covering some sixty-nine pages.

W. J. C.

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**A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN BAR.** By Charles Warren. Little, Brown & Company, Boston. 1911.

“If I were asked,” said De Toqueville, writing in 1835, “where I place the American aristocracy, I should reply without hesitation, that it is not

composed of the rich, who are united by no common tie, but that it occupies the judicial bench and the bar." Their studies, he declares, insure them a separate station in society; they form the highest political class and have nothing to gain by innovation, which adds a conservative interest to their natural taste for public order. This enviable position, shared today with the captain of industry, has not been maintained without exciting jealousy in the lay mind at all periods, from Dick the Butcher's sanguinary proposal to "kill all lawyers," to the somewhat milder strictures of *Ignotus* upon the "Legal Trust" in recent numbers of the *Westminster Gazette*. To such animadversions the bar has never failed to respond with countervailing blasts from its own trumpets. In fact no other class, outside of royalty, has been the subject of so much self-laudatory biography, echoes of bar meeting pompousness. It is refreshing, therefore, to turn to a work which in tracing the history of the American bar from its obscure beginning, presents the subject in proper perspective.

From innumerable scattered sources the author has, with fine discrimination, selected and assembled the salient facts in the history of the profession, and, without neglecting the picturesque features which serve to lighten the pages of history, has traced in a most informative manner the influences social, educational and economic that have assisted in producing the American lawyer. Only the most patient research could have collected the material; only stern repression could have condensed the material into a single volume of less than six hundred pages. In Part One are described the legal conditions prevailing in England and the American Colonies prior to the Revolutionary War; the organization of the courts and their attitude toward the common law; the education of the lawyers and the available law books. Part Two describes the growth of the American bar from the foundation of the United States Supreme Court to the opening of the Civil War. One chapter describes the widespread prejudice against lawyers and the common law that prevailed in the opening year of the nineteenth century. Much attention is given to the Federal bar and the historical aspects of the leading cases argued before the Supreme Court. There are chapters devoted to American law books, law schools and early professorships in law, the movement for codification, the rise of railroad and corporation law and the progress of American jurisprudence.

A brief review cannot reflect the thoughts suggested by this work, which both veteran and student may read with profit. Some who live a thousand miles from "The Hub" may feel that sufficient space is not given to local heroes, and that too much stress is laid on the achievements of the lawyers of the northeastern states, but local pride is a pardonable fault and bar horizons are essentially narrow. One conclusion is obvious. With very few exceptions, the great reputations at the American bar have been made in the field of constitutional and public law. This has detracted from interest in private law and its scientific statement. In this field we have preserved much of the atmosphere of the eighteenth century, the impetus to most legal reforms and progressive legislation coming from without. The author gives much interesting information as to the preliminary collegiate education of the great bar leaders, but has covered with a mantle of charity the defective education of the average lawyer of the nineteenth century. Until the rise of the modern law school, law was studied both in England and America as a trade rather than a science, and if the student had not received a liberal education before entering upon his legal education he was greatly handicapped. Nor has this condition altogether passed away. The "submerged tenth" of the legal profession is a pitiful group, invited if not lured to the bar by lax standards of mental and moral fitness. But of these minnows of the law the author does not tell us, and perhaps it is just as well; let us live, at least in imagination, with the leviathans.

W. H. L.